

Field and Garden.

The time has arrived when it is at length a serious question with the farmers of Virginia and Tennessee whether or not farming is longer to be a profitable pursuit. Most especially does that of wheat growing begin to attract their attention. Wheat growing cannot be said to have been profitable in this section during the last few years. Lands that in earlier days were made to produce thirty, forty, and even fifty bushels per acre, now yield from five to ten and twelve. That which was once a source of profit has, in many instances, been, of late, an actual loss. Since this is the case—and every farmer will bear witness to the truth of what has been said—the question presents itself as to what is the cause of this great falling off in the quantity of wheat produced. Where are we to seek the solution of this problem? Are we to look to the climate? Has a change taken place, gradually and almost imperceptibly? The solution will not be found in this. A change has taken place, but a change rather for the better. Have our lands become exhausted, or is the fault to be found in the manner of cultivation? Undoubtedly the answer to the latter question, a question upon which not only hangs the prosperity of agriculture, but upon which the very existence of the community depends, is the solution of this question. When the crops fail, trade also fails. Our farmers have pursued a suicidal policy, which is about to bring ruin upon the community. Year after year they have cultivated the same fields in corn and wheat, and that so badly that while producing not more than half what nature intended them to, the soil has been exhausted. Light ploughing, surface culture, constantly drawing from the soil without manuring, has ruined our lands, destroyed our crops and paralyzed the energies of the country.

This Old Virginia style of farming—this sleeping in the fence corner—this thing of one man attempting to cultivate half a county must give way. The soybean and the melle must yield to the reaper and the sickle. Broadcast sowing must give way to the drill. Our farms must be divided, and that which a few years since was one plantation, will soon be dotted with beautiful cottages—the homes of a dozen families. Strangers must be welcomed among us. Question not their politics; they have as good right to their opinions as we to ours; but extend to them the hand of friendship, and when we have won their hearts we will have won their votes. Encourage white labor. When strangers have made their homes among us their interests will become ours, our interests theirs. Thus we will be cemented into one great people. The country will be developed, our granaries will be filled, our railroads will grow beneath their increased freights, our towns become cities, and we a prosperous and happy people.

SEEDING TURNIPS.

Turnips should be sown from the 1st to the 10th of August, though good crops are some times obtained when sown a week later. The soil should be light and rich. Plough deep, and in sowing take great care not to have them too thick. Many crops are ruined from being sown too thick, as it is very difficult to have them thin enough. Sow broadcast, harrow well, and roll.

WHEAT AND RYE.

Plough your land deep, and when it has been once ploughed, it will often pay the cultivator to repeat the operation. If our farmers would sow half the usual number of acres, and put twice the amount of labor usually given, the yield would be more than double. Begin sowing on the 20th of September. It has been ascertained by good, practical farmers that the yield is 100 per cent. greater when sown in the drill. Good drills may be obtained at a moderate cost from any of our merchants. Let every farmer have them.

GRAPE CULTURE.

The following copy of a letter, written to a gentleman at Jonesborough, Tenn., has been kindly furnished us for publication:

EDMONT, N. C.,
April 26, 1868.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 23d of March came to hand too late for any information, so far as planting out this spring. I commenced the business (grape) nine years ago, without knowing anything about it, or any one to guide me, and as a natural consequence I got a very large number of worthless vines, and had no way of finding it out until they came into bearing, and then found them worthless, and had to cut them down to about ten good ones. I have a favorite kind of grape, of the family of the *Scuppernon*, called the *Mish*. It is a fine grape in every respect. It makes a fine wine without any addition of spirits or sugar, and is one of the finest table grapes I have ever seen. They grow like the *Scuppernon*, on an arbor, and need no pruning. At five years old they will cover a space ten feet square, and give three gallons of wine. At ten years old they will cover nine square, and give you seventy-seven gallons of wine, and so on

for every square they cover. They will not grow from cuttings—have to be layered for propagation. I set them thirty feet apart each way, say fifty to the acre. I think they would do well in your climate. You can judge for yourself; if the *Scuppernon* does well with you, why it will do. The next best wine grape I have is a bunch grape. It is of good sized berry and bunch; is very hardy, and never rots—a fine bearer; ripens uniformly and very early; makes a fine Madeira wine with a small addition of sugar.

The *Concord* is the next best. It is very hardy, a good bearer, and makes a good wine with addition of sugar. The vine will bear more abuse and do better than any bunch grape I have. It will grow in almost any kind of soil or climate, and do well.

The *Hartford* *Produce* does well, too; is a fine table grape, and makes a tolerable wine.

The *Clinton* is a very hardy grape, and makes a nice wine; will grow and do well almost anywhere. The berry and the bunch, is small but they bear very full and turn out very well. These four kinds are all I can recommend out of one hundred and fifty different kinds, and they ripen so they can be gathered at leisure. The *Madeira* comes the 1st of July; *Hartford* *Produce* 10th of July to 1st of August; *Concord* 10th of August to 1st of September; *Clinton* 1st of September to 1st of October; *Mish* 1st to 20th of October. So a few hands can save a large quantity of grapes. I plant all the bunch grapes in rows twelve feet apart, and ten feet in the row. Train to trellis, and prune them back every winter. My vineyard is a sandy soil, very poor; so I have to manure some. The principal manure I use is wood mould. Bone dust is very fine. There is no one in my county who knows anything about the culture of grapes. I have had to copy my own vineyard. I have planted out about 100 acres this season. In *Mish*, *Madeira*, and *Concord*, and a few of the best *Scuppernon*. I raised a good lot of plants this season, and would like to furnish my friends in the South with all the plants they want. I am sure I can furnish as good plants as any one, and at as low a figure.

JAS. J. CANNON.

BOTTLED CIDER.
One of our exchanges advises bottling cider, and gives the following directions: For bottling let the punice lie in the trough over night. The first run of the cider from the press is the best. Let the cider work a day or two, the casks being full, so that the punice may pass off at the bung-hole. Then take an empty cask, clean and sweep, put into it ten or twelve gallons of the cider, thrust into the cask through the bung-hole, an ignited rag-sulphur match, suspended by a wire from the bung-hole, to which it is to be attached; and after this another, and so on, till three or four matches have been consumed. Then shake the cask violently, until the fumes of the sulphur are completely incorporated with the cider. Pour the cider thus prepared into the cask in which you propose to keep it for the winter. Repeat the same process until the cask is full. Bung the cask tight, and let it remain in the cellar till March, and then draw the cider off and bottle it. Place the bottle upon the bottom of the cellar, and cover with sand. Some place the bottles bottom up, in a trench or between two bits of joists, as in this way the corks will remain secure without twine or wire. If you don't care to bottle it, you can make excellent cider in this way: Take pure cider, put it into clean casks; then after the cider has worked so as to be pleasant, add to each barrel a pint of mustar-seed, and bung tight. The cider will remain till Spring of pleasant taste and sparkling appearance, when poured into a tumbler.—*Maryland Farmer*.

GOOD CIDER.
It is of importance, in making cider, that the mill, the press, and all the materials be sweet and clean, and the straw clear from must. To make good cider, the fruit must be ripe, (but not rotten), and when the apples are ground, if the juice is left in the punice for twenty-four hours, the cider will be richer, softer and higher colored; if the fruit is all of the same kind, it is generally thought that the cider will be better, as the fermentation will certainly be more regular, which is of importance. The gathering and grinding the apples, and pressing out the juice, is a mere manual labor performed with very little skill in the operator; but here the great work of making good cider commences. If the juice of the fruit is left to itself, it undergoes three distinct fermentations, all of which change the quality of this fluid. The first is the *Vinous*; the second the *Acid*, which makes it hard and prepares it for fermentation; by the third it becomes putrid. The first fermentation is the only one the juice of apples should undergo to make good cider. It is the operation that separates the fluid from the juice, and leaves it a clear, sweet, vinous liquor. To preserve it in this state, is the grand secret; this is done by fuming with sulphur, which checks any further fermentation, and preserves it in its fine vinous state.

It is to be wished that all cider makers would make a trial of this method; it is attended with no expense, and but little trouble, and will have the desired effect. I would recommend that the juice, as it comes from the press, be placed in open-headed casks or vats; in this position it is most likely to undergo a proper fermentation, and the person attending may, with great correctness, ascertain when the first fermentation ceases; this is of great importance, and must be particularly attended to. This fermentation is attended with a hissing noise, bubbles rising to the surface and there forming a soft spongy crust over the liquor. When this crust begins to crack, and a white froth appears in the cask, level with the surface of the head, the fermentation is about stopping. At this time the liquor is in the fine, genuine clear state, and must be drawn off immediately into clean casks; this is the time to fumigate it with sul-

phur. To do this take a piece of canvas, of about two inches broad and twelve long, dip this into melted sulphur, and when a few falls of raked cider are put into the cask, set this match on fire and hold it in the cask until it is consumed, then bung the cask and shake it, that the liquor may incorporate with and retain the fumes; after this fill the cask and bung it up.

This cider should be racked off again the latter part of February, or first of March; and if not as clear as you could wish it, put in isinglass to line it and stir it well; then put the cask in a cool place, where it will not be disturbed, for the fuming to settle. Cider, prepared in this manner, will keep sweet in casks for twenty years.—*Old Almanac*.

Turnips and Ruta Bagas.

A light soil, rather sandy than otherwise, makes the best soil for the white turnip. In such a soil it is rich naturally, or has been made fertile the turnip grows rapidly and produces large crops. It is just the time now when the seed should be sowed, certainly not later than the 10th of August. If ruta bagas are to be cultivated, and they will fill the soil with roots, they should be sowed in drills three feet apart, well rotted manure being first deposited along the course of the drills, or else the sides of the drill well sprinkled with some commercial fertilizer, such as guano, or phosphate. After the drill has been formed as if for the reception of potatoes, the ridge up by two bouts of the plough, the crown of the ridge should be flattened, either by passing a light roller over the ridge, or by breaking down the ridge with the back of a rake. Another furrow drill should then be made along the centre of the flattened ridge some half inch deep, and the seed should be sowed in this furrow with the hand, or drilled in. If seeded broadcast, and that is the general although not the best practice, sow about two pounds of seed to the acre. The *Royal Warr* of turnips makes the best drill, and is the best for the reception of potatoes, the ridge up by two bouts of the plough, the crown of the ridge should be flattened, either by passing a light roller over the ridge, or by breaking down the ridge with the back of a rake. Another furrow drill should then be made along the centre of the flattened ridge some half inch deep, and the seed should be sowed in this furrow with the hand, or drilled in. If seeded broadcast, and that is the general although not the best practice, sow about two pounds of seed to the acre. 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